

“Municipal control over special-purpose bodies.”

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Special-purpose bodies (SPB) are governmental organizations with responsibilities for a specific function (or limited functions). They come with different names, which include agency, authority, board, commission and public corporation. There are four reasons that led to the establishment of special-purpose bodies. These reasons will be explored within the body of this analysis, which will endeavor to understand how municipal control over SPBs has come into being within Toronto.

SPBs are typically designed to increase citizen control over functions that directly affect them. In addition, SPBs are deemed necessary as the depoliticization of certain issues is deemed to be purely technical in nature. Third, self-financing businesses and enterprises are believed necessary because they provide important administrative functions. Lastly, SPBs tend to relate to size, which enables initiatives for making key services available to areas larger or smaller than a single municipality. Examples of SPBs include: Toronto public library, Metrolinx, Toronto Police Service Board, Toronto Hydro and several other municipal bodies responsible for more administrative duties and special services for citizens.

This research paper will examine the municipal control over SPBs. In so doing, this paper will analyze the Toronto Police Service (TPS), which can be considered a SPB as it relates to serving the community and controlling the population of Toronto by ensuring orderly conduct. Undertaking a close study of the TPS will not be easy, though this research will ultimately attempt to uncover the various ways SPBs, especially TPS, ruin political and fiscal accountability, efficiency and policy coordination, which can potentially lead to adverse effects in the community. With the aid of selected sources taken from academic journal articles, non-academic reports and newspaper articles, this

essay will relate how the TPS functions and is organized in policy making, budgeting, and how senior managers report to council, finally outlining several changes that have taken place since the formation of the organization. By taking such a multifaceted approach to understanding the TPS, this essay will highlight the ways it operates inclusive of challenges and difficulties faced by the organization. With this information, this essay will conclude by coming up with several solutions that be implemented immediately in order to help mitigate any issues between TPS and council, attempting to eliminate any problems currently faced by this SPB.

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